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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, I feel that one tractor that was taken from Coimbatore has been got back. Certain other tractors taken from North Arcot district were not returned. We are looking into the question of equitable distribution of these tractors between the Madras State and Andhra State. We are taking necessary steps."

*Forest Range Advisory Committees.*

* 483 *Q.*—SRI Y. MANJAYA SHETTY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state— 10-20 a.m.

(*a*) whether the Government have constituted District as well as Taluk Forest Advisory Committees; and

(*b*) if so, what their functions are?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Only Forest Range Advisory Committees have been sanctioned, to be constituted at one for each range.

" (*b*) The functions of the Committee are purely to serve as a liaison body between the forest utilizing public and the departmental offices and to bring to their notice the needs of the ryots regarding agricultural implements, fencing materials firewood, etc. They have no administrative functions."

SRI Y. MANJAYA SHETTY :—" In view of the forest development programme which each district is having, is it not possible for Government to constitute such committees and make them function as early as possible so that they may advise the administration on proper lines? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I have already answered that the Government have taken a decision to constitute Forest Range Advisory Committees. If anywhere such committees have not been constituted, we will see that they are constituted early."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" In furtherance of the object of this Committee, will they ban the felling of trees for charcoal? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Felling of trees for charcoal is a different matter. That is not one of the primary objects of the constitution of the Advisory Committees."

SRI M. S. MOGRAL :—" On what basis are the members of these committees selected? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The Committee is to consist of five non-official members to be nominated by the Collector in consultation with the District Forest Officer. The period of membership will be for two years."

SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN :—" Does the committee have official members also and, if the answer is in the affirmative, may I know who they are? "

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The Range Officer, the Tahsildar of the Taluk and the Revenue Divisional Officers will be ex-officio members."

SRI K. T. RAJU :—" இந்தக் கமிட்டியில் அந்த ஸ்தலங்களில் இருக்கிற M.L.A.-க்களேயும் சேர்த்துக்கொள்ளப்படுமா ? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" M.L.As. come under the category of non-officials."

*Allotment of oil engines to agriculturists in Malabar.*

* 484 Q.—SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the maximum period for which oil engines are allotted to agriculturists in Malabar; and

(*b*) how many oil engines were allotted to agriculturists in Walluvanad taluk under the jurisdiction of the Demonstrator, Perintalmanna, during 1953?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Eight months.

" (*b*) Twenty-six oil engines were allotted under the hiring scheme."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" May I know whether the oil engines given to the peasants in Perintalamanna were taken back even before the need for them ceased and, if so, the reasons therefor? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I would like to have notice."

SRI O. KORAN :—" May I know whether the Government will consider the desirability of stationing oil engines at taluk head-quarters so that cultivators can get them without delay? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I have already said that the Government examined the proposal and decided that it was not a practicable proposal."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" Will the Government consider the question of stationing or erection of oil pumps permanently on the banks of the river Bharatam which passes through this area, so that the cultivators may not be put to inconvenience during periods of drought? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" That is quite a different proposal. If the proposal is put forward, the Government will examine it."

SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI :—" Is it not a fact that agriculturists are given oil engines on hire only for three months and an extension of time by only ten days is allowed, and the engines are taken back even before the need for them ceases? "